



FACT SHEET

BLM-MONTANA/DAKOTAS

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Miles City Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision

FACT SHEET: Energy Development

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Section 102 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directs agencies to manage public lands in a manner that recognizes the nation's need for domestic sources of minerals and other commodities, while protecting scientific, scenic, historic, archeological, ecological, environmental, air and hydrologic values.

The Draft RMP identifies management goals and objectives, and considers a range of alternatives for resolving issues for resources managed within the Miles City Field Office. The information summarized in Table 1 below addresses lease stipulations applied to oil and gas resources within each alternative of the Draft RMP/EIS. Alternative management for other minerals/energy, such as locatable and mineral materials, are addressed in detail in the Draft RMP/EIS.

Fluid Minerals within the Planning Area

During the planning process, lands are proposed by BLM as closed (no lease) or open to leasing. For lands open to leasing, the leasing process is initiated when members of the public file Expressions of Interest to nominate parcels for leasing to the BLM. Then an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists reviews the nominated parcels and prepares an environmental assessment (EA). The EA discloses the potential environmental consequences from leasing the nominated parcels. Within the EA, resources specialists identify and recommend the necessary lease stipulations to be applied upon lease issuance.

All leases are subject to the terms and conditions of the lease and federal regulations. Lease rights may be subject to lease stipulations, which are considered to be either a major constraint (e.g. no surface occupancy), a moderate constraint (e.g. timing limitations) and controlled surface use restrictions. Various forms of public involvement are incorporated throughout the leasing process.

In addition to lease stipulations, the BLM could also identify specific permit approval requirements, or conditions of approval, based on site-specific analysis to mitigate resource concerns and to ensure compliance with laws, regulations, and land use plans. Lease stipulations and permit approval requirements would also apply to split-estate leases. An example of split-estate is where privately owned surface overlies federal minerals.

Resources considered when addressing oil and gas leasing include, but are not limited to, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, cultural/heritage sites, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, areas with important resource values such as wildlife, viewsheds, steep slopes and sensitive soils. Descriptions of each lease stipulation are found in the Minerals Appendix of the Draft RMP/EIS.

Table 1: Summary of the lease stipulations applied to oil and gas resources within each alternative.

Miles City Draft RMP/EIS - Oil & Gas Stipulation Summary of Alternatives					
	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
Lease Terms	968,000 acres	185,000 acres	737,000 acres	916,000 acres	808,100 acres
Timing or CSU	4 million acres	963,000 acres	4.4 million acres	4.4 million acres	3.1 million acres
NSO	304,000 acres	2 million acres	150,000 acres	1,119 acres	1.4 million acres
Closed to Leasing	94,000 acres	2.1 million acres	94,000 acres	94,000 acres	94,000 acres